

Coins

Foreign coins plentiful, without cost of travel

By Roger Boye

HERE IS ANOTHER reader question from the holiday mailbags.

Q—I would like to start collecting coins from other countries, but how can I get coins without a lot of expense? I can't afford to travel overseas for a pocketful of coins—J. T., Chicago.

A—First, check several coin stores. Most coin dealers come across many foreign coins and

place the common ones in a box to sell for a few cents each. For \$5, you should be able to buy coins from at least 25 countries, if you check enough stores.

Also, some collectors get foreign coins from banks or vending machine companies. [For example, a surprising number of foreign coins are found in parking meters.] And, another way is to contact any relative or friend planning a trip

overseas, and ask that person to come back with a pocketful of coins.

The mints of several countries put out special coin sets, roughly equivalent to United States proof or mint [uncirculated] sets. A publication by Amos Press, titled "How to Order Foreign Coins" [\$2.50 to P.O. Box 150, Sidney, Ohio 45365], lists countries which offer numismatic services to collectors, and those which do not.